GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION 
COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, April 7, 2010 - 2:00 p.m.
Student Union Room 208

I. Roll Call
Members Present: Erin Diebold (ACCOUNTING), Steven Lehr (MBA), Megan Wolff (MGMT INFORMATION SYSTEMS), Jennifer Wimmer (CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION), Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY), Danielle Howard (EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP), William Garnett (SPECIAL EDUCATION), Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING), Dawid Zydek (ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING), Laurenn McCubbin (ART), Jeff Malecki (MUSIC), Lori Andersen (HEALTH PROMOTION), Jennifer Scharf (proxy - KINESIOLOGY), Brandon Richards (PHYSICAL THERAPY), Cheryl Darby-Carlberg (NURSING), David Wedley (SPORT & LEISURE SERVICES), John Piro (LAW), Allison Cantor (ANTHROPOLOGY), Zoraida Caldera (FOREIGN LANGUAGES), Adla Earl (HISTORY), Andrea Kayl (PSYCHOLOGY), Crystal Jackson (SOCIOLOGY), Pauline Serrano (CHEMISTRY), Corinne Griffing (GEOSCIENCE), Rob Bryson (proxy - LIFE SCIENCES), Jason Baker (PHYSICS), William Saas (COMMUNICATION STUDIES), Sarah Prather (CRIMINAL JUSTICE), Surbhi Sharma (ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES), Michael Gordon (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION), Jessica Lucero (PRESIDENT), Kyle George (VICE PRESIDENT), Candace Griffith (TREASURER), Veronica Glover (SECRETARY).

Members Absent: Jared Price (ECONOMICS), Sonya Walker (SPORTS EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP), Andrea Wilkins (ARCHITECTURE), Stacy Nelson (MECHANICAL ENGINEERING), Andrea Wilkins (ARCHITECTURE), Maggie Werning (FILM), Christopher Trevino (THEATRE), Rachel Riedel (HEALTH CARE ADMINISTRATION), Edward Wynder (PUBLIC HEALTH), Nick Thomas (HOSPITALITY ADMINISTRATION), Sam Harr (ENGLISH), Autoosa Kojoori-Saatchi (POLITICAL SCIENCE), Yanan Jiang (MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES), Justin Smith (MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY), Elizabeth Young (JOURNALISM & MEDIA STUDIES), Gabriela Gandarilla/Taneasha Evans (SOCIAL WORK), and Dr. Kate Korgan (GPSA Faculty Advisor).

Others Present: Dr. Adam Simon (Faculty Advisor) and Carin Wallace (GPSA Manager).

II. Approval of Minutes
- President Lucero called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. She explained that the meeting would be recessed for speeches given by candidates for election to the new GPSA Executive Board.
- Sarah Prather (CRIMINAL JUSTICE) motioned for a recess and Danielle Howard (EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP) seconded the motion. The motion to recess unanimously passed.
- President Lucero reconvened the meeting at 2:13 p.m. She asked everyone to look over the past month’s minutes for corrections.
Steven Lehr (BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION) made a motion to approve the minutes. Danielle Howard (EDUCATIONAL LEADSHIP) seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. Speakers

IV. Budget Report

o Treasurer Griffith read through the budget from last month and explained pertinent details.

o Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY) asked what the raffle item pertained to. Treasurer Griffith responded that it was for the social. He also asked what the $17500 for hosting was for. She responded that $17500 was the total hosting budget for the year and then the amount is broken down by how it is spent each month.

o Jason Baker (PHYSICS) asked why tuition/fees are collected each month. Treasurer Griffith explained that some graduate students are on payment plans and thus are paying monthly so not all the fees are collected at once.

o Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY) asked if there are great expenses for hosting the research forum. Treasurer Griffith replied that there are not due to several factors, such as our student organization status and Graduate College assistance. She further explained that the total cost for the Research Forum could take up to three months to reflect in the budget.

V. Committee Reports

o GPSA Activities

- William Saas (COMMUNICATION STUDIES) announced that the last social for the semester would be held Saturday at Leavitt Park. He showed the group a video from the Fall semester cardboard championship. He directed everyone to view further information on Facebook. Flyers for the event were available for department representatives.

o GPSA Community Service

- Treasurer Griffith announced that the participation in recent community service events was lackluster. Instead of doing a book drive, GPSA will simply provide the information on how to donate to the CCSD.
- Treasurer Griffith asked what we can do to make it more active. Crystal Jackson (SOCIOL), Crystal Jackson (SOCIOLOGY) suggested making the activities more involved, as they seem detached right now. We may want to donate time to one specific school, or ask a non-profit organization what services/help they need.
- Jason Baker (PHYSICS) suggested we try to team up with Circle K or collaborate with another group’s community service projects.
- Erin Diebold (ACCOUNTING) asked why there were so many drives. Treasurer Griffith responded that we do not have a great turn out. Perhaps graduate students do not have a lot of extra time or inclination to volunteer. Erin suggested we move from having so many drives to promoting more active participation.
- Zoraida Caldera (FOREIGN LANGUAGES) stated we should do our part to help the surrounding community.

o GPSA Election Committee

- President Lucero reminded everyone to post the flyer regarding voting. Voting will be from April 7th through April 13th at 5 p.m. President Lucero will contact those graduate students on the elections committee to count the votes.
- Dawid Zydek (ELECTRICAL & COMPUTER ENGINEERING) asked about the voting procedure. President Lucero responded that the council voted at the end of the meeting and constituents were to visit the GPSA office in Lied Library to vote. Please bring student ID cards.
GPSA Grants – E/Spring March grants $6,640.
  - Vice President George reminded everyone that the Fall 2010 deadline for grant submission was April 15th.
  - Jason Baker (PHYSICS) asked when summer grant notification would be sent out. Vice President George responded that the system was down resulting in the committee being a little behind. Awards would be sent out soon.
  - Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY) also noted that there were a lot of applications.
  - Carin Wallace (GPSA Manager) stated that 53 applications were received for summer.

GPSA Publications
  - Secretary Glover stated that the publication was ready for distribution. She then thanked everyone on the committee for their effort.

GPSA Government Relations
  - Vice President George announced that the plan for gubernatorial candidates to debate on 4/15 was canceled. No candidates would commit to the process in writing.
  - Plans for the fall were discussed.
  - Marcus Johnson (EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY) asked if the event would be open to the UNLV campus only. Vice President George stated that the event would be planned in conjunction with other higher education institutions.

Board of Regents, SPECIAL SESSION April 16, 2010, DRI Las Vegas
  - President Lucero explained that recommendations will be discussed for plans to meet the shortfall. The community college and state college are bringing plans to the special session. The universities are discussing the process, not necessarily where the cuts are coming from right now.
  - Tuition and fees are also on the agenda. Geddes proposed a different option for tuition/fees (See option B presented at a previous meeting).
  - There is still a scenario in which we would pay higher tuition, but we do not want to go ahead and say we will pay more tuition.
    - Cannot afford a 7.5% increase in graduate fees because GAs are making up for a loss in PTIs.
    - UNLV is also having issues with competitiveness among other universities. We still need to attract good professors and students.
  - It is important to talk about differential tuition related to higher cost programs. President Lucero expressed concern that students will end up paying special course fees in addition to differential fees.
    - President Lucero proposed an amendment in which special costs for the program will be eliminated for programs that charge a differential fee, except when the special costs pay for consumables.
    - As the policy proposed currently states, to charge differential fees all programs must bring forward a plan together. A change with this process may be made so that each institution can make its own plans for differential tuition.
    - The Chancellor will have ultimate oversight over this process.
  - Please send any questions to President Lucero.
  - Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) asked how we maintain our competitive edge. President Lucero does not think differential fees are the ultimate factor as some students base attendance decisions on program faculty.
Vice President George stated that the only way to get around that is making the program competitive.

- UNLV is being asked to increase its financial aid within next 10 years.
- Community colleges were tasked to increase financial aid to 5% or 10% (UNLV = 15%) within next 10 yrs.

- How do you feel about a portion of your fees being funneled to other students (financial aid)?
- Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) asked if the raise in fees would affect the funds that the GPSA receives. President Lucero replied no.
- Cheryl Darby-Carlberg (NURSING) asked how UNLV is making the determination on how programs are being cut.
  - President Lucero is not on the committee. A curriculum review committee has been formed, but student representation is not stipulated in the bylaws.
- Cheryl Darby-Carlberg (NURSING) stated that she heard UNLV plans to take 1 million dollars out of the School of Nursing.
  - Numerous denials were sounded. UNLV has not concretely decided from where the cuts are coming.
  - Please email President Lucero letters to pass along so your voice can be heard.
- Cheryl Darby-Carlberg (NURSING) stated that the other concern is that funding will be cut from the Nursing department which has a predominately female student body.
  - President Lucero asked that this concern be addressed in the letter.
  - Dr. Simon stated that they are essentially looking to reduce faculty salary. The only way to remove tenured faculty is to eliminate the program so the tenured faculty no longer has a contract.
    - Expensive departments must justify why they should stay regardless of expense. Recommendations will be provided based on these discussions.
- Cheryl Darby-Carlberg (NURSING) stated that the law binds them on the ratio of students to faculty.
  - Vice President George stated that the committee recognizes that the nursing department is a superior program to others that charge more and students may anticipate a raise in cost relative to comparable programs.
  - Antonio Gutierrez, VP candidate, stated that he works in nursing full time and all new hire contracts were set up for 12 months. Most new hires were also PhDs, which increased the cost of contracts. There are hints that all faculty may be forced into 9 month contracts.
    - Cheryl Darby-Carlberg (NURSING) stated that this change in contracts may cause the program to lose good faculty because they are losing part of their salary.
- Megan Wolf (MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS) asked how the decision to eliminate programs was going to develop.
President Lucero responded that differential fees may go into effect in the next biennium. **These fees are to improve the programs not to fill holes in the budget.**

- Vik Sehdev (CIVIL & ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING) UNLV & UNR are talking about differential fees, and it will take 2 years to phase in new fees.
- President Lucero reiterated that nothing has been voted on.
  - Please show up for public comment.

VI. Old Business

- Redistribution of Banquet Funds ($4,000)—information/action
  - Treasurer Griffith asked to table this until next meeting so she can provide the exact amount that needs to be reallocated.

VIII. New Business

- Vice President George gave a health insurance update.
  - We will be using AETNA this coming year.
  - Prescription coverage will be 3K per year.
  - We will pay $1474 per year for this insurance.
  - The discussion regarding mandatory health insurance is moving forward. UNR is interested in joining this discussion.
  - Crystal Jackson (SOCIOLOGY) asked if there were any radical changes, such as including vision and dental.
  - Vice President George replied no. They are looking to find insurance coverage that is comparable to the private sector. This change results in the debate of lower costs versus increased coverage.

IX. Announcements

- May 5, 2010 meeting CANCELLED and RESCHEDULED to Apr 28, 2010, 2 p.m., SU 208.
- Guitar Hero III Tournament, Memorial fundraiser honoring Angela N. Peterson in support of Child’s Play Charity, $5.00 donation to get in. Thursday, April 22, SU 208C from 3:00 – 6:30 p.m. To sign up: hdr@unlv.nevada.edu or call 702-204-8874 for more details.
- ALLISON CANTOR = killed by drunk driver over spring break, (ANTHROPOLOGY), she was going to grad this year; raffles, prizes, etc. Can also donate online.

X. Public Comment

- Treasurer Griffith announced that Movies that Matter will show *The Cove* on Earth Day (4/22) in CBC A106 @ 7pm.
- Vice President George reminded everyone to join the Alumni Association. Also join the chapter pertinent to your degree. Check out all the perks available
- Secretary Glover stated that proxy forms must be filled out and given to Carin Wallace (GPSA Manager).
- President Lucero announced that the university mandated that we not have access to listserves. Some departments no longer allow their GPSA representatives to email constituents via listserves. SEND can be sent to the department chair but may not be too useful as we occasionally need timely responses to questions/debates.

XI. Adjournment

- Lori Andersen (HEALTH PROMOTION) made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason Baker (PHYSICS) seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.